

many times when a young girl student, and in mature life, endeavoring to persuade myself that I could if I would, but the odor of both lilac and milkweed seems to place a band about my head, which, as regards the lilac, is bearable to a certain limit of politeness, if I am a guest in a house; but the effect of the milkweed is so intensified that I think I should lose consciousness if I persisted long in the inhalation. JULIA S. HOAG.

*Albany, N. Y.*

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#### Revision of N. Am. species of Fissidens.

On comparing the measurements of leaf-cells and spores in the species treated in my paper (this journal xii, 1887, p. 1) with those recently given by Limpricht,<sup>1</sup> I found mine so uniformly in excess that I was lead to re-examine the matter. As this remeasurement led to the same result as at first, I turned to a verification of the value assigned to the divisions of the eye-piece micrometer used. This value I found had been erroneously determined, being twenty-five per cent. greater than it should be. Those who have occasion to use these measurements are, therefore, requested to deduct one-fourth from them, *e. g.*,  $20\mu$  should read  $15\mu$ ;  $24\mu$  should be  $18\mu$ , and so on. C. R. BARNES.

*Madison, Wis., March 1, 1888.*

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#### An exchange herbarium.

An ideal botanical exchange is one through which one can obtain at any time any plant desired. At the New York meeting of the A. A. A. S. the Botanical Club appointed a committee, consisting of Dr. Geo. Vasey, Dr. N. L. Britton, Thomas Morong, Dr. S. Watson and Dr. B. D. Halsted, to consider the question of a botanical exchange for this country, and to organize one if thought desirable and practicable. Suggestions from each member of the committee have been secured, as well as from other botanists, and information has been obtained in regard to the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Islands. Direct information regarding a very successful German botanical exchange has for some reason failed to reach the committee, but some account of its methods of work has been learned from persons in this country who have obtained plants through it. An account of the workings of the British Exchange, together with suggestions for the management of one in this country, is given in the February numbers of the *Torrey Bulletin* and BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

There is a desire on the part of many that the exchange be located at Washington. The botanist of the Department of Agriculture has, therefore, consented to manage the exchange if so desired, and the Commissioner of Agriculture has granted space in the department building for the purposes of the exchange, and authorized the use of the duplicates belonging to the department herbarium. If the proposed exchange is organized on this basis, it will be practically an extension of the system of distribution heretofore carried on by the Department of Agriculture, and its management under special rules. In this case there would be no fees, and the interchange of specimens would be made through the mails free of postage. Persons desiring specimens could therefore be expected to contribute a liberal number in exchange for those desired, and thus quickly establish a stock from which nearly everything called for could

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<sup>1</sup> Die Laubmoose (Rabenh. Krypt.-Flora), p. 427 et seq.